



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	DPR8S2\1030
Project title	Cayman Islands Coastal Education Guide
Country/territory	Cayman Islands
Lead organisation	Mangrove Action Project
Partner(s)	Cayman Islands Department of Environment, CI Ministry of Education, National Trust of the CI, Sea Elements/Clever Fish, Mangrove Education Project, Caribbean Utilities Corp,
Project leader	Martin Keeley
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	www.mangroveactionproject.org Facebook@mangroveactionproject Instagram@mangroveactionproject Twitter@MangroveProject

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Output 1: Development of Coastal Lagoon Education Guide (CLEG) using latest and most pertinent science for local ecology.

- 1.1 Local organisations, Ministries of Environment & Education consulted about the Coastal Education materials. [Completed](#)
- 1.2 Guide linked to National Curriculum involving consultation with several educators. [Underway](#)
- 1.3 Scientists consulted for local up-to-date scientific data & ecological information: [Underway](#)

Output 2: Education guide is developed, published & distributed

- 2.1 Collection of materials including illustrations of relevant species & ecosystems: [Underway](#)
- 2.2 Copy & Materials assembled for final draft, reviewed & edited for publication. [Incomplete](#)
- 2.3 Final draft of guide printed and pilot project conducted with two Cayman schools. [Not started](#)

Output 3: Website & associated materials developed to augment capacity building of educators & interfaced with the CLEG

- 3.1 Supplementary materials - such as flash drives and interactive ecology games - developed to augment classroom materials. [Underway](#)
- 3.2. Interactive complimentary website developed to enhance & monitor coastal curriculum (CLEG) plus links to other Cayman related materials. [Underway](#)

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Any major problems encountered in the past six months have been caused by Covid-19 and they, together with our responses, are outlined in Section 2b.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The main problem we encountered was that some of the promised co-funding was redirected towards Covid-19 activities. In addition, the closure of schools in the Cayman Islands because of Covid-19 has meant that we needed to redirect their participation in the pilot as well as in the projected teacher involvement. We were able to resolve this by organising and holding the pilots in the private education facilities of Clever Fish, an affiliated organisation of Sea Elements which is partnering with us in the project.

At the same time we recognised that there has been a massive shift towards remote teaching – again in response to lockdown and safety protocols. We are therefore using a variety of methods to incorporate remote teaching that will be available when we begin the teacher training workshops in the Spring of 2021. The first of these was to create a new organisation called the Cayman Islands Mangrove Rangers under the umbrella of our local Cayman partner, the Mangrove Education Project. The Rangers were launched on World Mangrove Day on July 26, 2020, and are in the process of providing support for the implementation of the CLEG.

Since their formation the Rangers have taken on a variety of tasks, but first they had to be taught mangrove ecology and biology, and this took place during August headed by Martin Keeley, Catherine Childs and representatives of the CI Department of Environment. There are 10 Rangers who represent young Caymanians who are unable to find work because of Covid-19 and several university graduates and students who chose to do their courses on-line rather than travel to the UK and risk catching the virus. They were chosen after advertising and intensive interviews and because they have a variety of talents. Three have teaching experience or are studying education in college. They will be assisting in teaching during the pilot project and continuing in this mode when we run the teacher training workshops.

Another two of the rangers are videographers and will be videotaping the hands-on activities during the pilot so that these will then be available on-line through the CLE website. Other rangers are handling social media and organisational management. The video-taped activities will be an extension of the Guide itself which we are currently digitising as well as developing hard copies – again because we may need to go back into remote teaching if the pandemic requires further and extended safety protocols well into 2021. This will also make it easier to transfer the program for use in the other UKOTs in the 2021-22 school year.

Because of the incorporation of more digitised materials there has been a minor delay in the launching of the website which is still under construction. The site is being designed to incorporate all the additional interactive projects. This process will be complete by the 2020 year end.

Catherine Childs continues to develop presentation materials for the teachers' CLEG workshops. Because the base CLEG curriculum cannot be presented in the foreseeable future in its initially designed workshop setting in Cayman schools, Ms. Childs' energies have been expended preparing for digital versions of the CLEG teachers' workshops

These are the main adaptations that we have initiated, and we do not see them as having any material change to the budget, and so, while the distribution of the expenditures among the various categories has not materially changed, the activity able to be performed has appropriately evolved due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: YES Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: NO Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No. N/A

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No issues. We want to share with you the attached two articles that reflect our progress. The first is a local article in the Cayman Compass and the other is from an internationally renowned environmental group that specializes in coastal ecosystems.

<https://www.facebook.com/caycompass/videos/358305515304086/>

<https://www.facebook.com/caycompass/videos/357342745699331/>

<https://mailchi.mp/mangrovealliance/octobernewsletter2020>

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**